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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Colin H. Self et al : **DECISION ON PETITIONS**
Application No. 10/812,044 : **UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)**
Filed: March 29, 2004 : **AND 37 CFR 1.55(c)**
Attorney Docket No. 602314-004 :

This is a decision on the petition filed April 6, 2007, which is being treated under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 365(c) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed PCT application, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for the benefit of priority to a prior-filed foreign application, as set forth in the amendment filed July 5, 2006.

The petitions are **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1)

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of

the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See MPEP Section 201.11, Reference to Prior Nonprovisional Applications. The amendment fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and is therefore unacceptable. The relationship of the PCT application to the instant application not specified.

As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.55(c):

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date, **and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6))**;
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional); and
- (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) is **DISMISSED**.

The petition fails to comply with item (2) above. In this regard, a review of the file record fails to disclose that the priority information was included in an oath or declaration or in an Application Data Sheet (ADS) in accordance with 37 CFR 1.76(b)(6). Unless provided in an ADS, 37 CFR 1.63(c)(2) requires that the oath or declaration must identify the foreign application for patent (or inventor's certificate) for which priority is claimed under 37 CFR 1.55, and any foreign application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country, day, month, and year of its filing. *Note* MPEP 201.14.

Additionally, the amendment submitted with the instant petition improperly placed the claim for benefit to foreign Application No. 9322156.2, filed October 27, 1993 to be included with the domestic priority which is not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63(c)(2).

Before the petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR § 1.55(c) can be granted, a renewed petition under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR § 1.55(c), in compliance with the above matters are required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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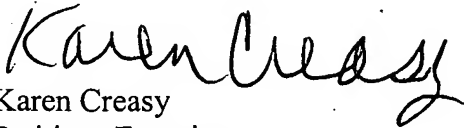
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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen Creasy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "C".

Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions